

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 14137 061252Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NASA-01 DODE-00 PM-05 L-03

NSC-05 ERDA-05 SS-15 /052 W

-----087306 070356Z /70

R 061017Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SVSTATE WASHDC 6556

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 14137

PASS RICHARD BARNES NASA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, IN

SUBJECT: GOI APPROVES NVSA LANDSAT AGREEMENT

1. DR. R.D. DESHPANDE, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DST), TOLD SCICOUNS THAT PRIME MINISTER DESAI HAD APPROVED THE NASA AGREEMENTS NECESSARY FOR INDIA TO HAVE ITS OWN LANDSAT GROUND RECEIVING STATION. DESHPANDE SAID IT WAS THE "BRAZIL TYPE" AGREEMENT THAT NASA HAS USED PREVIOUSLY.

2. DR. A. RAMACHANDRAN, SECRETARY, DST, HAD THE SUPPORT OF PROF. SATISH DHAWAN, SECRETARY, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (ISRO), IN THIS ACTION. M.A. VELLODI, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS PREVIOUSLY AND IS NOW OUT OF COUNTRY, HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE DECISION.

3. THE GOI IS TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO OFFICIALLY SIGN THE AGREEMENT. THE NATIONAL REMOTE SENSING AGENCY (NRSA), HEADED BY WING COMMANDER RAO (RETD.) WILL NOW REQUEST THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUDGET NECESSARY TO PROCURE A LANDSAT GROUND STATION.

4. DESHPANDE SUGGESTED THAT NASA CONSIDER LOANING NRSA A LANDSAT MOBILE GROUND STATION, SIMILAR TO THE ONE RECENTLY USED IN PAKISTAN, UNTIL INDIA PROCURES AND INSTALLS ITS OWN STATION. DESHPANDE FELT THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE TIME PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO INDIA ABOUT THE LOAN OF THE MOBILE

STATION TO INDIA, WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE.

5. COMMENT: IN THE PAST, VELLODI AND DHAWAN ARGUED THAT  
ALTHOUGH THE GOI WANTED THE LANDSAT STATION, THE NASA AGREE-  
MENT REQUIRED SOME SURRENDER OF INDIAN SOVREIGN RIGHTS.  
INDIA WAS WILLING TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH NASA BUT NOT WITH  
THIRD COUNTRIES. BY SIGNING A "BRAZIL TYPE" NASA AGREEMENT  
INDIA, ACCORDING TO THE ABOVE DEFINITION, HAS AGREED TO SET  
ASIDE THIS OBJECTION. EMBASSY CONCURS THAT, IF POSSIBLE,  
NASA SHOULD LOAN MOBILE STATION TO NRSA.  
GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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